

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-24 (canceled).

Claim 25. (currently amended) An apparatus for producing consumable products having an outer shell comprising:

a mold containing [[a]] an edible consumable material;
a water-cooled ram having an axial bore;

the water-cooled ram is configured to selectively move into and out of the mold between a first position and a second position for at least partially forming an outer shell from the edible consumable material;

a displacement ram movably mounted within the axial bore of the water-cooled ram; and

the displacement ram is configured to selectively move within the axial bore of the water-cooled ram and into and out of the mold when the water-cooled ram is in the second position between a first position wherein a space is formed at a vertex end of the water-cooled ram and an end of the displacement ram and a second position to contact the at least partially formed outer shell of consumable material wherein the end of the displacement ram is in a plane with the vertex end of the water-cooled ram to expel air inclusions therefrom from the edible consumable material when the water-cooled ram is in the second position.

Claim 26. (currently amended) An apparatus for producing consumable products having an outer shell comprising:

a mold containing a consumable chocolate material;
a water-cooled ram having a vertex region and an axial bore communicating with the vertex region;

the water-cooled ram is configured to selectively move into and out of the mold between a first position and a second position for at least partially forming an outer shell from the consumable chocolate material;

a tube located within the axial bore and communicating with the mold;

a source of gas at ambient temperature connected to the tube; and

the gas at ambient temperature from the source communicates through the tube and into the mold for displacing an amount of consumable chocolate material when the water-cooled ram is in the second position.

Claim 27. (currently amended) An apparatus for producing consumable products having an outer shell comprising:

a mold containing [[a]] an edible consumable material;
a water-cooled ram comprising an internal space and a flexible sheath surrounding the internal space;
the water-cooled ram is configured to selectively move into and out of the mold between a first position and a second position for at least partially forming an outer shell from the edible consumable material;

a source of cooling water under pressure; and
means for adjusting the pressure of the cooling water from a pressure P₁ to a pressure P₂ wherein P₂ is greater than P₁; and

the cooling water under pressure P_1 communicates with the internal space of the water-cooled ram to expand the flexible sheath within the mold for displacing an amount of edible consumable material when the water-cooled ram is in the second position and thereafter the cooling water under pressure P_2 communicates with the internal space to further displace the edible consumable material.

Claim 28. (currently amended) An apparatus for producing consumable products having an outer shell comprising:

a mold containing [[a]] an edible consumable material;
a water-cooled ram having a vertex region and comprising an internal space and a shell of rigid material surrounding the internal space, the shell is provided with a passage at the vertex region which communicates the internal space with the mold when the water-cooled ram is located in the mold, said passage is covered by a diaphragm;

the water-cooled ram is configured to selectively move into and out of the mold between a first position and a second position for at least partially forming an outer shell from the edible consumable material;

a source of cooling water under pressure; and

the cooling water under pressure communicates with the internal space of the water-cooled ram for expanding the diaphragm at the vertex region of the water-cooled ram into the mold for displacing an amount of edible consumable material when the water-cooled ram is in the second position.